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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01421 191650Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 HA-05 IO-13 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0979
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IS, JO
SUBJECT: ANERA PROGRAM STILL HAVING PROBLEMS WITH ISRAELIS

1. ANERA REPS GUBSER AND SELZ FILLED IN CONGEN ON RESULTS OF MEETINGS WITH GOI REPS MORNING MAY 19. THEY MET FIRST WITH MILGOV OFFICIALS MILSON AND KARAMON AND THEN WITH AVITSOUR AND OTHERS IN MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (FORMERLY MSW).

2. ALTHOUGH TONE OF BOTH MEETINGS WAS NOT UNPLEASANT, IN FACT, GOI OFFICIALS APOLOGIZED FOR THEIR DELAY IN RESPONDING TO ANERA PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD IN DECEMBER 1977, THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF ANERA PROJECTS BEYOND MAY 2 MEETING AS REPORTED TEL AVIV 5785.

3. REVIEWING ELEVEN CURRENT ANERA-PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR FY 1978, ISRAELIS GAVE FOLLOWING REACTIONS:

(A) HALHUL WHOLESALE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET-- A FLAT, UNEQUIVOCAL "NO." REASON ADVANCED WAS THAT

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HALHUL, AS ALL LARGER TOWNS, WAS "RELATIVELY RICH" AND DID NOT NEED SUCH HELP. ANERA REPS WERE TOLD IN GENERAL TO STICK TO "RURAL AREAS" AND TO DIRECT PROJECTS TWOWARDS "MOST NEEDY PEOPLE." IT WAS AGAIN CLEAR THAT ISRAELIS DO NOT LIKE MUNICIPAL PROJECTS ACCORDING TO SELZ. ONE ISRAELI OFFICIAL ASKED ANERA REPS IF ANERA HAD BEEN REQUESTED (PRESUMABLY BY USG)

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TO COOPERATE ESPECIALLY WITH WEST BANK MAYORS IN AID PROJECTS.

(B) BEIT JALA OLIVE PRESS COOPERATIVE'S MODERN SOAP FACTORY--TENTATIVELY REFUSED BUT WILL CONSIDER FURTHER. PRINCIPAL OBJECTION IS THAT THIS TYPE OF PROJECT IS SUITABLE FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND INVOLVES ONLY HANDFUL OF PEOPLE. ANERA REPS RESPONDED THAT COOPERATIVE HAD OVER 200 MEMBERS.

3. TARQUMIA (HEBRON) OLIVE PRESS COOPERATIVE'S MECHANIZED AGRICULTURAL SERVICES--APPROVED.

4. JORDAN VALLEY AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS' COOPERATIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES--TENTATIVELY DISAPPROVED FOR SAME REASONS AS NO. 2 ABOVE.

5. HEBRON UNION OF UNIVERSITY GRADUATES' POLYTECHNIC--DIASPPROVED AND NO REASON GIVEN. ANERA REPS SUSPECT REFUSAL RELATES TO INTEREST IN PROJECT OF HEBRON MAYOR QAWASIMA.

6. BETHLEHM SOCIETIES' SKILLED METAL WORK TRAINING AND PRODUCTION--APPROVED.

7. RED CRESCENT DEGREE COURSE IN NURSING--APPROVED.
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ANERA REPS NOTED THAT ONE ISRAELI REP INDICATED THAT THIS COULD BE REFUSED IF IT WAS TIED IN WITH BIR ZEIT UNIVERSITY. AVITSOUR OVERRULED HIM BY SAYING THAT HE APPROVED IT BECAUSE DR. OBEID WAS FOR IT.

8. GAZA NEIGHBORHOOD SELF-HELP SEWER PIPE LAYING--FINAL DECISION PENDING MEETING OF AVITSOUR, ANERA, AND GAZA MILGOV TO BE SCHEDULED IN NEXT WEK OR TWO.

9. AL NAJAH UNIVERSITY (NABLUS) LABORATORY FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT--DISAPPROVED BECAUSE OF MILGOV OPPOSITION--NO FURTHER REASON GIVEN.

10. NAZLAH SHARKIYA (TULKARM) AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE'S IRRIGATION WELL REPAIR--APPROVED. ANERA REPS REMARKED TO US UPON THE SPEEDY APPROVAL GIVEN TO THIS SMALL AND RURAL PROJECT.

11. DEIR SHARAF (NABLUS) OLIVE PRESS COOPERATIVE'S GRADING, QUALITY CONTROL AND TINNING PROJECT--REQUIRES FURTHER STUDY BY ISRAELIS.

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12. IN ADDITION TO REACTION TO ANERA-PROPOSED PROJECTS, ISRAELIS SAID THEY WOULD BE PRESENTING NEW REVISED LIST OF PROJECTS WHICH THEY WANT ANERA TO CONSIDER.

13. COMMENT: AS PER USUAL, THE ISRAELI WHEELS GRIND SLOWLY AND EXCEEDINGLY FINE WITH ANERA'S PROPOSALS. ANERA REPS ARE MOST DISAPPOINTED WITH ISRAELI "NO" TO HALHUL MARKET, AS ARE WE AT CONGEN. SELZ IS HOPEFUL THAT EVENTUALLY SOME OTHER PROJECTS WILL BE APPROVED. HE AND GUBSER EXPECT TO SEE NEWLY-APPOINTED WEST BANK MILGOV ON MAY 21. PRIOR TO GUBSER'S DEPARTURE LATER NEXT WEEK, THEY PLAN TO GIVE EMBASSY AND US A FINAL READ-OUT ON STATUS OF 1978 PROJECTS.
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